## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE In repatent application of: Jeff R. Justis et al. Serial No. 10/648,056 Filed: August 26, 2003 SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR INTERVERTEBRAL REDUCTION Atty Docket No. MSDI-77/PC753.00

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the final Office Action mailed April 5, 2006, Applicants request that the reply submitted on June 5, 2006, not be entered in the present application. Rather please enter and consider the following preliminary amendment and remarks submitted along with a Request for Continued Examination. An extension of time for one month to and including August 5, 2006 is enclosed along with the fee for the same and the fee for the RCE. Please provide any additional extensions of time which may be necessary and charge any additional fees due or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account 12-2424, but not including the

payment of issue fees.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on August 4, 2006.

Douglas A. Collier
of Registered Representative

Signature

August 4, 2006
Date of Signature

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